(b) whether Government are also aware that the doctors are being offered foreign trips, air tickets for prescribing the anti-cancer drugs of the respective companies;

(c) the steps Government are taking to stop such malpractices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) While no specific complaints have been received in this regard, as per the Indian Medical Council (Professional Conduct, Etiquette and Ethics) Regulations, 2002, a physician shall not give, solicit, or receive nor shall he offer to give solicit or received, any gift, gratuity, commission or bonus in consideration of or return for the referring, recommending or procuring of any patient for medical, surgical or other treatment. A physician shall not directly, or indirectly, participate in or be a party to act of division, transference, assignment, subordination, rebating, splitting or refunding of any fee for medical, surgical or other treatment. This shall apply with equal force to the referring, recommending or procuring by a physician or any person, specimen or material for diagnostic purposes or other study/work. The violation of any of the provisions of the said regulations will invite disciplinary proceedings. Further, an aggrieved party can also take recourse to legal remedies under Consumer Protection Act, 1996, in cases where doctors harass the patients by such unethical practices.

Commercialization of medical education

†1888. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the rempant commercialization of medical education throughout the country and that medical colleges are charging huge capitation fee from the students;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether due to lack of money, competent and hardworking students are unable to get admissions in medical colleges?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its judgement dated 14.8.03 in the case of Islamic Academy of Education *v/s* State of Karnataka & others has directed that each private institution shall have the freedom to fix its own fee structure but no capitation fee should be charged. With a view to prevent medical colleges from charging capitation fee, Supreme Court, in the aforesaid judgement, has further directed that each State Government has to set up a Committee under the Chairmanship of a retired High Court Judge to decide whether the fee proposed by the institute is justified and does not amount to profiteering or charging of capitation fee. However, the Government is in the process of bringing in a legislation for regulating admission and fee structure in private medical colleges.

Female foeticides

1889. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether female foeticide is rampant in various States in India;

(b) if so, the names of the States where the female foeticide is prevalent and to what extent ;

(c) the number of female foeticides which takes place every year alongwith the ultrasound machines in each, State-wise;

(d) the status of female and male ratio which prevails today due to such female foeticides; and

(e) the steps Goverment are contemplating to check female foeticide and by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (d) The child sex-ratio in the age group 0-6 years had declined in India from 945 in 1991 to 927 in 2001. The decline is particularly prominent in the Northern and Western States like Punjab (from 875 to 798) Haryana (from 879 to